

[is also operable for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of the region where emission occurs.

3. (Amended) A system according to claim 1
wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is also operable for electronically altering the energy emitting characteristics of the region to] blocks [emission] transmission from a portion of the region while allowing [emission] transmission from another portion of the region.

4. (Amended) A system according to claim 1
wherein the guide element is elongated along an axis, and
wherein the region comprises an array of energy [emitting] transmitting areas spaced apart along the axis of the guide element.

B1 5. (Amended) A system according to claim 4
wherein each area comprises a band of energy [emitting] transmitting material wrapped about the axis of the guide element.

6. (Amended) A system according to claim 4
wherein the areas comprise energy [emitting] transmitting material helically wrapped about and along the axis of the guide body.

7. (Amended) A system according to claim 1
wherein the guide element is elongated about an axis, and
wherein the region comprises at least two elongated strips of energy [emitting] transmitting material extending along the axis and spaced apart circumferentially about the axis of the guide element.

B2 9. (Amended) A system according to claim 7
wherein the strips comprise a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide element.

11. (Amended) A system according to claim 1 wherein the region comprises a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide body.

Sub E1

12. (Amended) A system for ablating tissue within a body comprising a guide element for introduction into a body, a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide element, and control means responsive to a prescribed input command for electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy [which, when emitted by the region, ablates tissue, the control means including means for receiving a prescribed input command and switching means responsive to the prescribed input command] and for electronically altering the energy [emitting] transmitting characteristics of the region to block [emission] transmission from portion of the region while allowing [emission] transmission from another portion of the region.

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13. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of the region where [emission] transmission is either blocked or allowed.

14. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein, in response to another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically altering] electronically alters the energy [emitting] transmitting characteristics of the region to allow [emission] transmission from spaced apart first and second portions of the region while blocking [emission] transmission from a third portion of the region located between the first and second portions.

15. (Amended) A system according to claim 14 wherein, in response to still another prescribed input command, the [switching] control means [is operative for electronically varying] electronically varies the length of at least one of the first, second, and third regions.

Sub C2
16. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein the guide element is elongated along an axis, wherein the region comprises an array of energy [emitting] transmitting areas spaced apart along the axis of the guide element.

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17. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein each area comprises a band of energy [emitting] transmitting material wrapped about the axis of the guide element.

18. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein the areas comprise energy [emitting] transmitting material helically wrapped about and along the axis the guide body.

Sub C4
20. (Amended) A system according to claim 12 wherein the region comprises a coating of energy [emitting] transmitting material on the guide body.

21. (Amended) A method for ablating tissue within a body comprising the steps of introducing a guide element having a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material into the body, exposing the region to body tissue, and electronically coupling the region to a source of energy that, when [emitted] transmitted by the region, ablates tissue, and

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[operating a switch that in one position electronically alters the energy emitting characteristics of the region to emit as a zone of uniform polarity and that in another position electronically alters the energy emitting characteristics of the region to emit as zones of alternating polarity.]

electronically selecting between a first coupling mode wherein the energy is transmitted from the region as a zone of uniform polarity and a second coupling mode wherein the energy is transmitted from the region as zones of alternating polarity.

22. (Amended) A method according to claim 21
and further including the step of electronically altering the energy [emitting] transmitting
characteristics of the region to block [emmission] transmission from a portion of the region while
allowing [emmission] transmission from another portion of the region.

23. (Amended) A method according to claim 21
and further including the step of electronically varying the length of the region where
[emmission] transmission occurs.

24. (Amended) A method for ablating tissue within a body comprising the steps of
introducing a guide element having a region of energy [emitting] transmitting material into
the body,
exposing the region to body tissue, and
electronically coupling the region to a source of tissue ablating energy [that, when emitted
by the region, ablates tissue,] and
electronically [altering the energy emitting characteristics of the region to] blocking
[emmission] transmission of the energy from a portion of the region while allowing [emmission]
transmission of the energy from another portion of the region.

25. (Amended) A method according to claim 24
and further including the step of electronically varying the length of the region where
[emmission] transmission is blocked.

26. (Amended) A method according to claim 24
and further including the step of electronically [altering the energy emitting characteristics
of the region to allow emmission] allowing transmission of the energy from spaced apart first and
second portions of the region while blocking [emmission] transmission of the energy from a third
portion of the region located between the first and second portions.